Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 //081 W

-----066379 151126Z/16

R 150710Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6059
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CONFIDENTIAL MAPUTO 0893

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MZ. SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN PAY ANOTHER VISIT TO MAPUTO

REF: MAPUTO 0448

1. IN BRIEF JULY 13 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, HUMBERTO BRAGA, PUBLICITY DIRECTOR AT MOZAMBIQUE RAILWAYS (CFM) SAID THAT ON JULY 1 APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-FIVE SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN ACCOMPANIED BY SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAY OFFICIALS AND OFFICIAL FROM SAG FOREIGN MINISTRY PAID ONE-DAY VISIT TO MAPUTO. VISIT WAS ANOTHER IN A SERIES TO SHOW SOUTH AFRICANS THAT PORT OF MAPUTO AND MOZAMBIQUE RAILWAYS ARE STILL FUNCTIONING, EVEN IF AT REDUCED LEVELS.

2. BRAGA, WHO PROVIDES EMBASSY WITH QUARTERLY PORT FIGURES, VOLUNTEERED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAY OFFICIALS APPEAR TO BE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO KEEP CFM FUNCTIONING NORMALLY AND TO CONFIDENTIAL

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REASSURE SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN THAT IT IS ALL RIGHT TO SHIP THROUGH MAPUTO. BRAGA SAID SOUTH AFRICANS REGULARLY ASSIST CFM WITH MAJOR AND MINOR PROBLEMS ON THE RAILWAY (AND TO A LESSER EXTENT DOCKS) AND ARE ON CALL TO HELP OUT IF EMERGENCIES ARISE. VISAS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN TECHNICIANS ARE NO PROBLEM

3. BRAGA SAID THAT BY END OF AUGUST MOZAMBIQUE RAILWAYS WILL HAVE LOST APPROXIMATELY EIGHTY PER CENT OF ITS TECHNICAL STAFF. THIS COUPLED WITH CONCURRENT PROBLEMS ON THE DOCK HAD SLOWED DOWN OPERATIONS AT PORT AND ON RAILWAYS. HOWEVER, BRAGA INDICATED THAT PORT AND RAILWAY, TO THE AMAZEMENT OF MANY, ARE STILL FUNCTIONING. BRAGA INDICATED THAT A SENIOR TANZANIAN OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF PORT OPERATIONS IN DAR ES SALAAM TOLD HIM A MONTH AGO THAT CONDITIONS AT MAPUTO PORT AND CFM WERE FAR BETTER THAN IN TANZANIA.

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